

From: Todd Pringle
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:39pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to simply voice my strong objection to the current settlement on the table in the Microsoft antitrust suit. As a technology professional working at the company Microsoft made every effort to make disappear (with an exceedingly unfortunate level of success), I must say that I have witnessed firsthand the anti-competitive efforts of the company.

As the Product Manager for Netscape Navigator (although I have only been with the company a year and a half) I am constantly reminded of Microsoft's monopoly power in the way our current market share has declined and in the barriers we have to get our product in front of consumers. Ours is the quintessential case of how Microsoft squashes competition, and of course it laid the groundwork for the antitrust suit. Every day that we develop strategy and our products, we do so knowing that we are up against a competitor that simply doesn't play by the rules established by the law. Doesn't, hasn't, and with the current plan on the table, never will.

Frankly Microsoft's monopolistic practices and its stranglehold on the operating system of 90%+ of the PCs delivered to consumers has become a bit of a joke in the technology industry. People simply joke about it, laugh it off, make sarcastic comments about it, and of course decide to try and do anything that Microsoft isn't doing or wouldn't be interested in. The tragedy of this is no joke however. The fact that some of the brightest, most innovative minds in the world have decided to capitulate - not compete, not innovate - speaks volumes about the negative effects of Microsoft's business practices. Those that do attempt to compete, such as us, simply bang our heads against the wall that is Microsoft's monopoly every day. This, I can assure you, is not fun. And it is most certainly not fair competition.

I won't detail the list of anti competitive actions Microsoft has taken here, as you most certainly are more familiar with them than I by now.

I will say that people, technology professionals in particular, have simply lost faith that the government will remedy the situation in any meaningful way. I urge you to prove otherwise.

Thank you,
Todd Pringle
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Todd Pringle
Product Manager

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